

VOLUNTEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



**ROSEBUD
BATTLEFIELD
STATE PARK**
May 15, 2007



MEETING AGENDA



- Announcements/Public Survey Questionnaire
- Review of 2007 Schedule/Draft Vision Statement
- Focus Group Results
- VAC Feedback Process on Plan Development
- Presentation of Final Two Topic Statements
- Public Comment Period/Lunch
- Small Group Discussion: Visitor Services/Facilities
- Large Group Discussion: Financial & H.R. Resources
- NHL Designation Update
- Next Steps

MEETING GUIDELINES



- Turn off cell phones/vibrate
- Respect each other's perspectives
- Actively listen to one another
- Participate and share your thoughts
- Work for the greatest good of Rosebud Battlefield State Park

Review of 2007 VAC Schedule

- Set meeting dates for August, September & October
- Review Draft Vision Statement

3rd DRAFT VISION



- The Rosebud Battlefield State Park is a unique, evolving story that reveals itself to Montana residents and visitors alike. Our vision is to preserve a destination experience that includes the culture, history, beauty, and opportunities for solitude that the Rosebud can instill in a person's psyche.
 - Alternate suggestion: Our vision is to support a visitor's experience that includes the conservation of the vistas and opportunities for solitude that the Rosebud can instill in a person's psyche. (Suggestion: substitute conservation for preservation.)

3rd DRAFT VISION



- The Battle is the premier reason for this Park and management efforts shall support conserving this historic landscape. Goals will help preserve a sense of wonder and discovery for visitors while effectively and sensitively interpreting and managing the site for public use.
- Two major components comprise the vision for the park::

3rd DRAFT VISION



■ Education and Interpretation.

Education and interpretation will be enhanced through a variety of methods, exhibits, programming and media that will include information on the Park's cultural, natural and archaeological resources. The story of the Park, though centered on the Battle, continues to be revealed as research is completed. The story starts in pre-historic times and continues to evolve through present day. For each faction of time, there have been unique and fascinating people, events, flora and fauna, and remains that have contributed to the Park's history and serve as examples to learn from. Interpreting the stories, sites, people, and traditions will provide visitors with a greater understanding of what happened and how these events are interconnected through time. This appreciation will strengthen and deepen one's sense of place and ownership in the park.

3rd DRAFT VISION



■ Stewardship of the Land

- The Park will strive to balance site conservation with visitor facilities and educational and recreational activities to maintain healthy natural resources and to protect cultural resources. Protection of critical viewsheds and aesthetics in the area will be necessary to maintain the austere [wide open, natural, beautiful] environment that draws so many people to it. The Park will work to find effective partners and funding to meet visitor service needs and to manage resources.
- Suggestion: Say something about "day use" to preclude camping?

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

- **Adjacent Landowners Focus Group**
 - 15 attendees
 - 9 male, 6 female
- **Tourism/Historic Focus Group**
 - 11 attendees
 - 6 male, 5 female

Primary Users

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ <u>Landowners</u> | ■ <u>Tourism/Historic</u> |
| – Educators | – Authors/educators |
| – Historians/history buffs | – Energy developers |
| – Native Americans | – Historians/history buffs |
| – Neighborhood landowners | – Native Americans |
| – Ranchers | – Neighborhood landowners |
| – Recreationists | – Ranchers |
| – Tourists/tourism groups | – Recreationists |
| – U.S. Military | – Tourists/tourism groups |
| | – U.S. Military |

Personal Use

■ Landowners

- Never been - 3-4 times/week
- Reasons: take friends or family around, hike, horseback rides, check cattle, check irrigation headgate

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Never been - 4-5 times/year to lifetime
- Reasons: take friends or family around, spiritual visit, provide guided tours (business)

Future Activities

■ Landowners:

- Ability to access reservoir on private property without crossing State fences
- Historical educator or speaker
- An organized tour with food, educational and festive activities

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Historic & educational tours: archeological, trail rides, botany, tribal music, science camp for kids, field digs, evening campfire programs (on adjacent land)
- Visitor facilities: bathrooms, beverage sales, bookstore, locate VC off site

Ideal Visit/Vision

■ Landowners:

- Not developed, pristine, leave as-is
- Recreation: riding, quiet
- Access: fix road on top, access Packers Ridge & Crooks point

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Leave natural, non commercialized, leave “primitive” but define it
- Education/interpretation: protect site, tie to other history items, same condition as now but improve interpretive sites & have brochures
- Visitor services: ranger there, building on site, camping off site, more visitation will be coming

Concerns

■ Landowners:

- Energy development
- Fencing
- Interpretation
- Mgt/maintenance
- Protecting/preserving historical/cultural
- Protecting natural resources (fire!)
- Vandalism/theft
- Visitor services: why increase visitation?

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Energy development
- Future development
- Protecting/preserving historic/cultural
- Mgt/maintenance
- Vandalism/Theft

Services & Facilities

■ Landowners:

- Education: orientation, fix plaques, new brochure
- Interpretation: repair signs, place markers for a simple walking tour/peep sites
- Restrooms
- VC: simple shed, nothing enclosed, pavilion, maybe roof, leave simple

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Education/interpretation: seminars 2x/year, allow commercial tours
- H.R.: permanent ranger
- Restrooms (upgraded)
- VC: bookstore, drinks, site away from battlefield, site on ridge, VC offsite, develop services on adjacent lands? (camping facility?)

Access

■ Landowners:

- Appreciate “filtered” access now
- Remain private, gravel
- Move south?
- If change access, you change the integrity of the area
- Allow 24-hour access?
- Sign that closes at dusk

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Improved highway signage & signage at nearby cities & LBHB
- Road should be on state land to access
- Address access easement vs. building a new road
- Less internal trails
- Place to park, place to walk (like YNP)

Level of Maintenance

■ Landowners:

- Fences: keep on perimeter only, fix
- Staffing: daily presence spring & summer & hunting; don't build housing for them
- Resource mgt: weed control, fire mgt.
- Vandalism: minimal now but OHW could increase

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Education/interpretation: mounted telescopes, preserve site against loss of artifacts
- Roads/trails: gravel into park, horseback is best way to tour, tour guides would decrease damage
- Facility mgt: don't build something can't take care of; more mgt needed, allow 1 main visitor place

Sustainable Management

■ Landowners:

- Resource mgt/access: weed control, allow grazing to reduce fire, develop wells for fires, fix fences, only day use
- Funding/planning: fees generated at site reinvested in site, FWP has plenty of \$ state-wide – cry foul

■ Tourism/Historic:

- HR/facilities mgt: someone to work with local landowners & Indian tribes to build trust; put post on ridge to point toward sites; don't put something you can't sustain
- Natural resource mgt: minimize impact on park, cows interrupt visitors, but no grazing increases fire, horse-drawn wagons to tour site (less impact)

Suggestions for FWP

■ Landowners:

- Planning process: don't over plan, better communicate with property owners, rebuild trust, use landowners as resources
- Historic preservation: fear of exposing items
- Services/access: don't need real visitor center, no lights, no lit parking lot, fear of condemnation for access

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Planning process: ranger, partner with groups like MPA & Commerce & tribes, create "friends" group, not be too protected
- Natural resource mgt.: restore native grasses, vegetative mgt. plan, graze only winter pasture, secure mineral rights
- Historic preservation: identify & protect arch sites
- Services/facilities/access: build revenue sources on site, museum, secure access, encourage tour guides

Complements/Competes

■ Landowners:

- Compete: be sure not to compete with Tongue River Res.
- Complements: LBHB, resources of area, attracts die-hards, hold on to pristine battlefield view, maintain quiet

■ Tourism/Historic:

- Compete: with itself by not maintaining it, tourists locally do wide-range of activities, visitor center at Dam would be clash of demographics
- Complements: LBHB, Fort Phil Kearney, Crow Fair; 100,000 visitors at Dam & 80% don't know RBSP, signage is needed

FEEDBACK PROCESS

- I support the topic statement, goals & objectives as written:
 - Yes ____
 - No ____
 - If no, reason why:
- What, if anything, needs to be deleted?
- What, if anything, would you suggest changing and if so, how?
- What items related to this topic do you think need further discussion at the August VAC meeting?

PRIORITIZED TOPICS

1. Park promotion and visitation.
2. Recreation management.
3. Interpretation and education.
4. Cultural and historic resources.
5. Natural resource management.
6. Visitor services and facilities.
7. Financial and human resources.

TODAY'S TOPICS

- Visitor services and facilities
- Financial and human resources



CONSENSUS MODEL

- 80 % Agreement
(I can agree 70-80%)
- 100% Commitment
(I will commit 100%)



SMALL GROUP ROLES

- *Facilitator*: make sure everyone in the group has a chance to participate; watch the time.
- *Recorder*: write down the group's responses on the flipchart; write large and don't worry about spelling.
- *Spokesperson*: report out the group's responses as written on the flipchart.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Form into smaller groups: Visitor Services
- Respond to the following questions:
 1. What would you add, delete or change to the draft topic statement?
 2. Identify key goals related to the topic.
 3. Brainstorm solutions & action steps that you would like to see related to the topic.
 4. Park any items where there is no common agreement (e.g., we agree to disagree).

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- Financial & Human Resources

- Brainstorm:

- comments
 - suggestions
 - concerns

NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting dates
- Assignments
- Meeting evaluation



OBSERVATIONS

- Resource management will be widespread & expected
- Little to no interest in energy development in the Park
- A majority believe the Park complements and enhances other attractions in the region
 - Many opportunities for partnerships with other attractions



OBSERVATIONS

- High level of agreement on keeping the pristine nature of the Park
- Mixed agreement on how much development to allow in the Park (services/facilities)
 - Most in favor of a visitor's center, but where? How elaborate?
 - Paved roads? Gravel roads? Few roads?
 - Comfortable restrooms and drinking water are a must
 - Minimal lighting



OBSERVATIONS

- Interpretation: Historical/cultural resources are very important and are a major draw
 - How much interpretation? Where?
 - User-friendly vs. minimal?
- Education is important to provide in some form (staffing, materials, etc.)
- General agreement that the Park needs at least one full/time staff, on site if possible, for security, maintenance, education



OBSERVATIONS

- Mixed agreement around access into and within Park
 - Permanent access will be necessary in the future, plan now
 - Roads vs. trails
- High agreement on 6 concerns facing development of the Park
- High agreement on ensuring Native American presence in the Park's education, interpretation & access



Results of Town Hall Mtg. I

- Key Themes: Vision, Take into Future
 - Keep natural
 - Preserve history
 - Protect resources
 - Involve Native Americans
 - Be user friendly in management & interpretation/education

Results of Town Hall Mtg. I

- Key Themes: Concerns/Suggestions
 - Energy development
 - Overuse/use without a plan
 - Resource protection—weeds, fire, water, grazing
 - Traffic control on site
 - Decisions made outside local community
 - Need open public process/include all
 - Need more efficient meeting notices

VAC Charter

- Mission of the Volunteer Advisory Committee
 - Identify park issues and trends
 - Formulate management recommendations for addressing them
 - Base recommendations on a balanced perspective, considering funding, staffing, resource needs, and community desires

VAC Charter

- The recommendations help form management plan and will guide future projects and activities at Rosebud Battlefield State Park.
- Recommendations will be crucial in helping FWP meet the needs and desires of Rosebud Battlefield's constituencies.
- Recommendations will be advisory in nature - FWP is ultimately responsible for the management of Rosebud Battlefield State Park.
- Regional Supervisor, Parks Administrator & Director all must approve the management plan.

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